

What is claimed is:

1. A method for searching messages, comprising:
 - receiving a query;
 - identifying a first message relevant to the query, the first message belonging to a conversation that includes a second message; and
 - returning the conversation as a search result.
2. A method of searching messages, comprising:
 - searching a message repository to identify one or more messages relevant to a search query, wherein at least one message is associated with a conversation, the conversation comprising one or more messages and having a unique conversation identifier;
 - identifying conversation identifiers to which the identified messages are associated;
 - creating a list of one or more conversations, each of the one or more conversations corresponding to a respective conversation identifier; and
 - producing the list of conversations as the search result.
3. A method of searching messages, comprising:
 - receiving an electronic message;
 - associating the electronic message with a conversation, each conversation having a unique conversation identifier, and wherein each conversation comprises one or more electronic messages;
 - storing information from the message in an index;
 - storing in a data structure corresponding to the unique conversation identifier information from the message.
 - searching the index to identify one or more messages that match a search query;
 - identifying from the data structure a list including at least a subset of conversations to which the one or more identified messages are associated;
 - producing the list of conversations as the search result.
4. A method of searching electronic messages, comprising:
 - searching a message repository to identify conversations that include messages that match a search query, wherein each of a plurality of the identified conversations include a plurality of messages and a unique conversation identifier;
 - creating a list of conversations representing at least a subset of the identified conversations;

selecting a conversation from the list of conversations;
providing differentiating information associated with the selected conversation such that first messages of the selected conversation are differentiated from second messages of the selected conversation.

5. A method of searching electronic messages, comprising:

searching a message repository to identify conversations that include messages that match a search query, wherein each of a plurality of the identified conversations include a plurality of messages and a unique conversation identifier differentiated from a subject reference in the plurality of messages;

creating a list of conversations representing at least a subset of the identified conversations;

selecting a conversation from the list of conversations;

providing differentiating information associated with the selected conversation such that first messages of the selected conversation are differentiated from second messages of the selected conversation.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the second messages are messages that match the search query.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the providing differentiating information includes:

providing formatting information for the first messages in a first format and providing formatting information for the second messages in a second format; and
wherein the first format differs from the second format in a visually distinctive manner.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the differentiating information pertains to whether messages should be represented in an expanded or a compacted mode.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the second messages are associated with the expanded mode.

10. The method of claim 5, wherein such differentiating information is used to differentiate between messages having different labels.

11. The method of claim 5, wherein such differentiating information is used to differentiate between messages having a predefined label and messages not having the predefined label.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the predefined label indicates whether or not a message has been viewed or marked as read.
13. A method of searching, comprising:
 - selecting a conversation from a list of conversations that match a search query, wherein the selected conversation includes a plurality of messages;
 - preparing information from the messages in the selected conversation for display, including identifying at least one message in the selected conversation that matches the search query.
14. The method of claim 13, the preparing including providing differentiating information such that messages matching the search query are differentiated from messages not matching the search query.